



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Benson Park Committee



Harry Schibanoff, Chairman      Roger Coutu, Selectmen Liaison

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### Meeting Minutes January 8, 2015

#### 1. **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Benson Park Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:08pm, January 8, 2015, in the Buxton Community Development Room, Town Hall.

S. Kancharla led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

#### 2. **Attendance:**

R. Alio, A. Desrosiers, D. Empey, J. Leone, and S. Kancharla

Excused: J. Barnes, S. Jasper, and Alt. Selectman Liaison P. Nichols

Absent: B. Nadeau

#### 3. **Public Input - None**

#### 4. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of Nov. 6, 2014

**J. Leone made a motion to accept the Minutes of Nov. 6, 2014**

**R. Alio second the motion**

**Five (5) Ayes                      (0) Abstentions**

Minutes of December 4, 2014

**R. Alio made a motion to accept the Minutes of Dec. 4, 2014**

**J. Leone second the motion**

**Five(5) Ayes                      (0) Abstentions**

#### 5. **Old Business**

##### **A. Use of Forms for Park Usage Park Events**

The Board of Selectmen had asked for reasons why the committee had felt the need to use the Benson Park Usage Forms. After much discussion the committee determined that the forms keep us informed about large numbers of visitors via registering with the Recreation Department and the need for someone to monitor the Porta-Potties' situation. The Highway Department also uses this information to schedule the maintenance days at the park. The committee recommended the continued usage of the forms.

The committee has recommended that we do not establish fees for large groups visiting the park. After much discussion members concluded that the collection of fees should be deferred at this time until we arrived at documented expenses and the interpretation for the definition of "a group."

Further discussion revolved around the topics of clarification on the park usage form and better communication for events scheduled at the park.

### **B. Resolution of Park Spot Reservation**

Desired spots for an event at Benson Park cannot be guaranteed. Rather than make a reservation, a notation for a requested area on the park usage form would be more suitable. A location for an event would operate on a “first come, first serve” basis since it would be impossible to enforce a reservation or request. The Benson Park Usage Forms and Calendar would be organizational tools for activities within the park.

### **C. Budget Concerns for 2017 - Porta-Potties**

The Board of Selectmen has recommended that Porta-Potties be maintained on a regular basis and serviced as dictated by the visiting guests. The budget for 2017 has increased funds for the maintenance of the Porta-Potties.

## **6. New Business.**

### **A. Liability Waiver Forms**

The decision was made to have a Liability Waiver Form which would cover a 3 year period and expire on the same date for everyone at the end of the cycle. These forms would be housed in the Office. (The older forms from previous years will be archived 4 years after they expire.)

### **B. Amphitheater Issues**

The town will grade and seed the areas around the newly erected Mallory Gray Amphitheater (which was installed on Dec. 13, 2014.) Some committee members felt that shrubs and flowers should not be planted nearby the structure so that the Highway Department will be able to maintain their mowing schedule. The Landscape Sub-committee would like to view the landscaping plans with the Mal's Pals organization and address maintenance concerns. More information will be forthcoming as our committee awaits the future date of the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Amphitheater.

## **7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members**

J. Leone announced that the Friends of Benson Park are making preparations for the 5<sup>th</sup> year celebration of Benson Park around the first weekend of June. J. Leone discussed some of the ideas for the celebration such as an Old Fashion Picnic, three legged-races, refreshments, publicity, and attracting other groups to renew an interest in the park. Details still need to be worked out, and A. Desrosiers and H. Schibanoff have volunteered to work with the Friends for the celebration.

### **Next Meeting**

February 5, 2015

## **8. Adjournment 8:04pm**

**J. Leone made a Motion to Adjourn**

**D. Empey Second the Motion**

**All in favor-Motion Carries**